



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 735 ANACAPA STREET
CONDUCTED VIA GO TO WEBINAR**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting is being held via teleconference and all members of the Independent Redistricting Commission are participating electronically from various locations.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Chair Hon. Melinda A. Johnson (Ret.), Hon. Abraham Khan (Ret.), Hon. Elizabeth Allen White (Ret.).

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Rachel Becerra, Administrative Assistant; Marguerite Mary Leoni, Special Counsel; Ariel Calonne, City Attorney; Michelle Sosa-Acosta, Deputy City Attorney; Sara Iza, Senior Planner; Dr. Doug Johnson, National Demographics Corporation; Dr. Daniel Phillips, National Demographics Corporation.

Public Present: None.

All present.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Changes to the Agenda

B. Public Comment. Any member of the public may address the Commission for up to two minutes on any subject within its jurisdiction that is not scheduled on this agenda for a public discussion.

C. Approval of the minutes of the Independent Redistricting Commission meeting of July 28, 2021. The Commissioners moved to approve the July 28 minutes without amendment.

NOTICES

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION REPORTS

1. Report on Final Civic Engagement and Outreach Plan for Redistricting.

Senior Planner Sara Iza presented on the Final Civic Engagement Plan and described the timeline for the eight proposed public hearings. Judge Johnson asked whether there would be any costs in securing venues for the hearings. Ms. Iza said there would be a fee of about \$100-\$200 per venue. City Attorney Ariel Calonne added that the City has a new interim City Administrator, Rebecca Bjork. Mr. Calonne said that Ms. Bjork asked City staff to present to City Council on September 14 regarding the redistricting plans. Mr. Calonne also mentioned that the Council will have some say on the locations of the hearings, so the locations are subject to change.

2. Report on the Census Bureau data receipt.

Dr. Daniel Phillips reported on the recently released Census Bureau data receipt. He explained that the released data is not the official redistricting data because the statewide database census needs to account for prisoner population. Dr. Phillips explained that the prisoner population may cause the estimated data to change slightly and that there is no substantial change expected. He then said that the state reported it would take about four to six weeks to process the census data and release its official census data.

Dr. Phillips presented a spreadsheet of Santa Barbara citywide demographics. He said he plans to have the district by district data at the September 20 public hearing.

Regarding the citywide data, Dr. Phillips explained that there was a slight increase in total population count for the City of Santa Barbara from 2010 to 2020. He then reported on the totals for racial ethnic backgrounds and the citizen voting age population. Hon. Johnson asked whether there was a significant population change among Hispanics from

2010 to 2020. Dr. Phillips said he did not have that information in the spreadsheet, but that he has seen such numbers in a different resource and that the numbers have not changed at all.

3. Discussion of Future Agendas.

Mr. Calonne and Deputy City Attorney Michelle Sosa-Acosta explained that the September 20 public hearing would be virtual and that there are administrative limitations for in-person or hybrid meetings, such as mask requirements. Hon. Johnson expressed that the Commission would rather attend public hearings in-person if possible. Hon. Johnson then asked about the historic turnout for previous districting public hearings for the City of Santa Barbara. Mr. Calonne explained that the previous districting process was activated by litigation. Ms. Sosa-Acosta then said that the turn out for previous districting process ranged from 40-60 people per hearing. Ms. Sosa-Acosta also mentioned that this year's election season could impact turnout for redistricting public hearings.

Mr. Calonne then explained to the Commission that the City sent the Commission a preliminary analysis on the legal criteria for the redistricting process. Hon. White and Hon. Khan said they found the analysis on the legal criteria to be helpful.

Hon. Khan asked for the Commission to receive advanced notice of any changes in locations or formats of the redistricting public hearings. Ms. Sosa-Acosta confirmed that the Commissioners would receive such advanced notice.

4. Public Comment.

During the discussion of future agendas, the Commission received a public comment from Lindsay Baker from the League of Women Voters. Ms. Baker wanted to emphasize the need for transparency in the procedures and community engagement during the redistricting process. She mentioned that the League of Women Voters would like the redistricting meetings to be displayed on the City's website as she found it difficult to find the Commission's meetings. Further, Ms. Baker mentioned that the League of Women Voters is holding a September 15 meeting on redistricting.

5. Discussion of Public Comment.

Hon. Johnson asked what could be done in response to Ms. Baker's concerns. Mr. Calonne said that the City would look into those issues and follow up. Hon. White asked whether the City would be present at the September 15 League of Women Voters meeting. Mr. Calonne explained that there is greater attention on the County of Santa Barbara's redistricting process, but acknowledged that the League of Women Voters is part of civic engagement. Mr. Calonne then said that if there is a way for the City to attend, it would do so. Hon. Johnson also asked what solutions existed for issues with the City website. Mr. Calonne said that the City is consulting with its Information and

Technology Department and its demographer National Demographics Corporation (“NDC”) on website capabilities.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Independent Redistricting Commission of the City of Santa Barbara on September 20, 2021.

SANTA BARBARA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION



HON. MELINDA A. JOHNSON, (RET.) CHAIR